

Restoration-Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Mojave) (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700463

A. List of Restoration Activities

The goal of the two-year Restoration project is to sustain and expand upon efforts to provide for responsible and appropriate OHV use of the 2,560-acre Old Woman Mountains Preserve (OWMP) while promoting the natural restoration and protective management of this natural and cultural heritage site. The activities of the proposed project are based on a restoration strategy of protective land management and natural re-vegetation of cultural and natural heritage sites and areas, with a special emphasis on Sections 5, 9, and 17 of the OWMP. These activities include: (1) active on-site monitoring and adaptive management of the OWMP, and (2) increased signage on the OWMP on the property.

Located in the Ward Valley of the Eastern Mojave Desert, the OWMP was acquired in 2002 by the NALC, a consortium of twenty-four tribal communities in Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. The OWMP is a unique and robust complex of desert fauna and flora embedded in a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern and located in the intergrade zone of three major desert biomes: the Great Basin, Colorado, and Mojave Deserts. The OWMP contains archaeological resources including petroglyphs and multi-colored pictographs, artifact scatter, and ceremonial areas (Rock Art of the Turtle and Old Woman Mountains, Eastern Mojave Desert, California, by Don Christensen, BLM, 2005). Although the OWMP is in a relatively pristine condition, prior to its acquisition by the NALC and the initiation of a site monitoring program in 2004, portions of the property, including sensitive habitat and cultural heritage sites, were damaged by recreational motorized activities.

The proposed Restoration activities comply with the strategy contained in the NALC's Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the OWMP. The strategy in the AMP emphasizes natural regeneration of restoration areas and has, over the past four years, included the removal of invasive species such as Tamarisk. The AMP is based on an exhaustive four-year inventory of the fauna and flora of the OWMP completed in 2008 by the San Bernardino County Museum and the Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station (Occurrence, Distribution, and Abundance of Vertebrate Species on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve: 2004-2008, by Gerald Braden, et.al, Biological Division, San Bernardino County Museum, 2008). Funding for the four-year study was provided to the NALC by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in partnership with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. The inventory identified 137 vertebrate species, 82 species of birds, including 28 breeding neotropical migrants. The OWMP also contains ideal desert tortoise habitat and ample evidence that the desert tortoise was present on the OWMP in the past two to ten years. This NALC is now working with the USFWS to finalize a plan by December, 2011 to rehabilitate the desert tortoise population in the OWMP.

A central feature of the project is sustaining the site monitor who would be on-site four consecutive days and nights per week, ten months per year. The OWMP site monitor, which has been jointly funded by the USFWS and the NALC, is the only reliable on-site resource routinely available in the Ward Valley to monitor and respond to the dramatic increase in the level of use by the OHV community. The monitor circulates around the OWMP several times throughout the day into the early-evening to observe and respond to use of the property to ensure that the OHV user-groups both understand and comply with the rules and regulations, particularly in culturally sensitive sites and restoration areas. Activities of the site monitor will emphasize restoration of Sections 5, 9, and 17 of the OWMP and will include: monitoring and documenting the nature, extent, characteristics, and locations of OHV use of the OWMP, enforcing the management prescriptions of the use of sensitive habitat and restoration areas described AMP for the OWMP, monitoring and reporting the impacts of OHV use of the OWMP and recommending intervention strategies and/or modifications to the AMP, and distributing informational material about the OWMP and securing feedback from OHV visitors (OWMP Visitors Form) about their experience in the OWMP.

Restoration activities will also include the design, production and placement of additional signage in the OWMP. The NALC recently completed a four-year pilot study using a variety of signage in the OWMP. The results of this pilot project will be used in both the design and placement of the additional signage for the property. Four signs will be posted in the OWMP that describe the terms and conditions of use of the OWMP as well as OHV user-routes. Two larger informational signs will be designed, produced and placed in strategic locations in the OWMP to provide a more detailed narrative

(including photographic images) about the natural and cultural heritage resources in the OWMP.

B. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and how OHV Recreation caused the damage:

The OWMP, as well as much of the rest of the Ward Valley, has emerged as one of the primary wild land destinations for the OHV community from San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties, as far east as Havasu City on the Colorado River. Due in part to the relative inaccessibility of the OWMP, the primary user-group of the property is the OHV community. The OWMP is also a gateway into the infrequently monitored 184,000-acre Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Old Woman Mountains Wilderness Area in the Eastern Mojave Desert. The prohibition of OHV in this BLM Wilderness Area, infrequently enforced and routinely violated by OHV usage, places added pressures for use of the OWMP by the OHV community.

Between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010, there were 35 OHV visitors to the OWMP. Given the size of the OWMP and the part-time nature of the site monitor, it is highly likely that there were additional visitors to the area that were not documented by the site monitor. Furthermore, the proposed change to the San Bernardino County Off-Road Vehicle Ordinance 3973 would eliminate the staging permit requirement potentially creating de facto OHV parks in the vicinity of the OWMP, underscoring the importance of monitoring and management of activity in this environmentally or culturally sensitive area. Finally, the potential loss of OHV use-areas in the southern portions of the Ward Valley to solar farms, and the proposed removal of desert lands in the northern portions of the Eastern Mojave Desert now used by the OHV community, will place additional pressures on the OWMP.

Prior to the acquisition of the property by the NALC, the property was under private ownership and was often frequented by the OHV community. Visual reconnaissance of the property and the extensive survey of the flora and fauna the OWMP indicate past damage to Desert Riparian, Creosote Scrub, and Desert Wash areas that provide habitat for special status species, including the desert tortoise and neotropical birds. In the upland Mojave Yucca habitat, additional damage has been caused by OHV traffic, not only disturbing the animal communities that contain special-status species, but also introducing invasive plant species. Also, a portion of the OHV traffic included the use of small arms (particularly high-powered rifles), with a deleterious effect on a number of species including the low-elevation Bighorn sheep and damage to rock art panels in portions of the OWMP. The past OHV traffic was also responsible for the disturbance of other cultural heritage sites that contain ground artifacts including ceramic shard scatter. Although the property has been under the ownership and protective management of the NALC for eight years, a portion of the OHV community still disregard—and to a degree resent—the more restrictive terms and conditions of use of the OWMP.

The project will manage, sustain, and enhance OHV opportunities on the OWMP. The continued availability of the OWMP, which is the property of the NALC, presumes the nature and extent of the use is responsive to the needs of the OHV community, the need to preserve critical habitat, and the need to protect the vulnerable archaeological sites and areas on the OWMP. The increased availability of the site monitor will help ensure that the OHV use is both integrated into, and responsive to, the environmental and cultural values that are the subject of the OWMP Adaptive Management Plan (AMP). The site monitor will promote greater awareness and understanding of the natural and cultural wonders of the OWMP, and will be available to help the OHV community gain a better appreciation for the recreational opportunities on the OWMP. The proposed signage will also contribute to the experience of the OHV community by providing better information about access routes throughout the OWMP. The OWMP currently contains only two OWMP Route 1 signs posted in the Preserve. The additional signs would be posted at various points along this route, as well as at critical junctions within the OWMP that are adjacent to restoration areas. The OWMP currently contains two educational signs posted in the primary destination area in the Preserve. Additional educational signs in two other critical OHV use areas would greatly enhance the visitor experience to these more remote locations in the OWMP.

As noted in the 2009 report issued by the Government Accounting Office at the request of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, enforcement is the top challenge to OHV management. The proposed project will provide a high level of enforcement, ensuring that the OWMP continues to be a location where the OHV community can enjoy the use of the OWMP and learn to appreciate its unique natural and cultural sites, areas, and resources.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The project area lies within the 2,560-acre OWMP located in the Ward Valley in the Eastern Mojave Desert. The general project area includes three of the four sections of the OWMP (Sections 5, 9, and 17). OHV access to these sections is provided by a north-south power-line road that connects Highway 40 to the north, and Highway 10 to the south, and is used for informal OHV staging areas. Access along the approximately 9 miles of designated routes in the three OWMP sections has resulted in collateral (cherry stem) damage to restoration areas that are now off limits to OHV recreation, as well as damage to archaeological resources. The proposed monitoring project would be concentrated in portions of this 1,920-acre area of the OWMP in order to help restore plant and wildlife species, and promote the protection of cultural and archaeological resources. These three sections contain the greatest biological richness and abundance on the OWMP, and include the habitat types of Mojave Yucca/Creosote Scrub, Creosote Scrub, Desert Wash, and Boulder/Spring/Wash habitat. These sections also contain most of the archaeological sites and cultural resources of the OWMP.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

Monitoring will include: documenting OHV use; enforcing the management prescriptions for restoration areas and cultural resources in Sections 5, 9, and 17; recommending modifications to the AMP, and; securing feedback from OHV visitors. Outcomes will be gauged by the reduction in OHV use in restoration areas, decrease in damage to cultural sites, feedback from OHV users, and incorporation of new management prescriptions in the AMP. Long-term success will be determined using information contained in the 2004-2008 survey of the OWMP that includes location, habitat condition, species composition, and survey grid lines (Occurrence, Distribution, and Abundance of Species on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve, G. Braden). A re-sampling of the arrays in the Final Report is scheduled for 2013-2014, one year ahead of the planned Desert Tortoise rehabilitation program. Outcome indicators include the number and distribution of native plant communities as well as the richness and abundance of fauna in restoration areas.

E. List of Reports

The project does not involve planning for restoration, only enforcing existing restoration studies, reports, and the OWMP Adaptive Management Plan, as well as the associated rules and regulations for OHV use of the OWMP.

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

The project does not include scientific or cultural studies.

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

The Restoration program will be implemented by the OWMP site monitor. The site monitor will be responsible for conducting routine and frequent visits to Sections 5, 9, and 17 four days per week, ten months per year. The site monitor will patrol to prevent intrusion into restoration areas and habitat documented in two reports prepared for the Native American Land Conservancy (Occurrence, Distribution, and Abundance of Species on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve: 2004-2008 Final, Gerald Braden, Karen Carter, Michael Rathburn, and Todd Hoggan, Biological Sciences Division, San Bernardino County Museum, 2008; Assessment of Botanical Resources on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve, Jim Andre, Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station, 2008). The monitor will also be responsible for monitoring and, through daily visits, ensuring the protection of Native American cultural heritage sites. Many of these sites are located within or adjacent to sensitive habitat and restoration areas (see Rock Art of the Turtle and Old Woman Mountains, Eastern Mojave Desert, California, by Don D. Christensen, et al., Bureau of Land Management, 2005). The monitor will also be responsible for working with the Executive Director of the Native American Land Conservancy to propose annual revisions to the OWMP Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) based on the nature, extent, location, and impact of OHV use in restoration areas and culturally sensitive sites and resources.

The monitor's enforcement activities will also include providing the OHV visitors with information about the OWMP. The informational packets will contain information about the NALC, route maps, a description of the natural and cultural heritage resources of the OWMP, and the terms and conditions of use of the property. Another proactive measure is the distribution and evaluation of OHV Visitor Forms that will promote a sense of engagement in the OHV visitors and assist the NALC in responding to and managing the issues and needs of the OHV community relative to restored lands and cultural resources. In addition, the monitor will work with the Executive Director of the NALC to design and place four directional (route designation), location, and regulatory signs, as well as two educational signs to be placed in strategic

locations in the OWMP. These signs will be designed to enhance the experience of the visitor while promoting understanding of the need for responsible use of the property and for protecting the natural and cultural heritage resources of the OWMP.

Additional Documentation

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Habitat Map with major OHV roads](#)

[Location Map by Section](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Mojave Yucca Protective Managment Area](#)

[Creosote Scrub Protective Management Area](#)

[High Elevation Protective Management Area](#)

[Diverse Perennial Protective Management Area](#)

[Sample of Signs in OWMP](#)

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Native American Land Conservancy		
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration-Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Mojave) (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-04-31-R01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The goal of the two-year Restoration project is to sustain and expand upon efforts to provide for responsible and appropriate OHV use of the 2,560-acre Old Woman Mountains Preserve (OWMP) while promoting the natural restoration and protective management of this natural and cultural heritage site. The activities of the proposed project are based on a restoration strategy of protective land management and natural re-vegetation of cultural and natural heritage sites and areas, with a special emphasis on Sections 5, 9, and 17 of the OWMP. These activities include: (1) active on-site monitoring and adaptive management of the OWMP, and (2) increased signage on the OWMP on the property.</p> <p>Located in the Ward Valley of the Eastern Mojave Desert, the OWMP was acquired in 2002 by the NALC, a consortium of twenty-four tribal communities in Southern California, Arizona, and Nevada. The OWMP is a unique and robust complex of desert fauna and flora embedded in a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern and located in the intergrade zone of three major desert biomes: the Great Basin, Colorado, and Mojave Deserts. The OWMP contains archaeological resources including petroglyphs and multi-colored pictographs, artifact scatter, and ceremonial areas (Rock Art of the Turtle and Old Woman Mountains, Eastern Mojave Desert, California, by Don Christensen, BLM, 2005). Although the OWMP is in a relatively pristine condition, prior to its acquisition by the NALC and the initiation of a site monitoring program in 2004, portions of the property, including sensitive habitat and cultural heritage sites, were damaged by recreational motorized activities.</p> <p>The proposed Restoration activities comply with the strategy contained in the NALC's Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the OWMP. The strategy in the AMP emphasizes natural regeneration of restoration areas and has, over the past four years, included the removal of invasive species such as Tamarisk. The AMP is based on an exhaustive four-year inventory of the fauna and flora of the OWMP completed in 2008 by the San Bernardino County Museum and the Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station (Occurrence, Distribution, and Abundance of Vertebrate Species on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve: 2004-2008, by Gerald Braden, et.al, Biological Division, San Bernardino County Museum, 2008). Funding for the four-year study was provided to the NALC by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in partnership with the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. The inventory identified 137 vertebrate species, 82 species of birds, including 28 breeding neotropical migrants. The OWMP also contains ideal desert tortoise habitat and ample evidence that the desert tortoise was present on the OWMP in the past two to ten years. This NALC is now working with the USFWS to finalize a plan by December, 2011 to rehabilitate the desert tortoise population in the OWMP.</p> <p>A central feature of the project is sustaining the site monitor who would be on-site four consecutive days and nights per week, ten months per year. The OWMP site monitor, which has been jointly funded by the USFWS and the NALC, is the only reliable on-site resource routinely available in the Ward Valley to monitor and respond to the dramatic increase in the level of use by the OHV community. The monitor circulates around the OWMP several times throughout the day into the early-evening to observe and respond to use of the property to ensure that the OHV user-groups both understand and comply with the rules and regulations, particularly in culturally sensitive sites and restoration areas. Activities of the site monitor will emphasize restoration of Sections 5, 9, and 17 of the OWMP and will include: monitoring and documenting the nature, extent, characteristics, and locations of OHV use of the OWMP, enforcing the management prescriptions of the use of sensitive habitat and restoration areas described AMP for the OWMP, monitoring and reporting the impacts of OHV use of the OWMP and recommending intervention strategies and/or modifications to the AMP, and distributing informational</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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Application: Restoration-Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Mojave) (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	<p>material about the OWMP and securing feedback from OHV visitors (OWMP Visitors Form) about their experience in the OWMP.</p> <p>Restoration activities will also include the design, production and placement of additional signage in the OWMP. The NALC recently completed a four-year pilot study using a variety of signage in the OWMP. The results of this pilot project will be used in both the design and placement of the additional signage for the property. Four signs will be posted in the OWMP that describe the terms and conditions of use of the OWMP as well as OHV user-routes. Two larger informational signs will be designed, produced and placed in strategic locations in the OWMP to provide a more detailed narrative (including photographic images) about the natural and cultural heritage resources in the OWMP.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	OHV Coordinator	240.000	40.000	HRS	7,000.00	2,600.00	9,600.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Site Monitor	2762.000	25.000	HRS	51,775.00	17,275.00	69,050.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Signs	4.000	150.000	EA	450.00	150.00	600.00
	Signs	2.000	750.000	EA	413.00	1,087.00	1,500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				863.00	1,237.00	2,100.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	66940.00 0	0.090	MISC	4,518.00	1,507.00	6,025.00
Total Program Expenses					64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	7,000.00	2,600.00	9,600.00	The Executive Director of the NALC will serve as OHV Coordinator for purposes of the two-year grant. The Coordinator will be responsible for: supervising the OWMP site monitor activities; assisting in the design of the additional signage; assisting in the development of the informational material for the OWMP; communicating the results of the Visitor's Form for the OWMP to the OHV community in the Coachella Valley; reviewing and finalizing recommended changes in the AMP for the OWMP and; providing administrative oversight for the project.
2	Contracts	51,775.00	17,275.00	69,050.00	The funds will support the site monitor for the Old Woman Mountains Preserve during the term of the two-year grant. The site monitor is responsible for; monitoring and managing OHV use of the OWMP; implementing the AMP for the OWMP; assessing and reporting on restoration sites in sensitive habitat areas in the OWMP; interacting with the on-site user-public; assisting in the development of new OHV management prescriptions for the OWMP, and; assisting in the design and placement of additional signage. Quantity in hours assumes 1 FTE at 2080 hours per year, and is based on 4 days per week or .8 FTE (1664 hours) at 10 months per year or .83 annually (1,381 hours per year) at two years (2,762).

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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					Note that the monitor will stay on-site four consecutive days and nights per week. The contractor is responsible for his own transportation and provisions.
3	Materials / Supplies	863.00	1,237.00	2,100.00	The signage is presented in two categories. The first series of four, three feet by three feet (UV protected) signs will each include general regulations for use of the OWMP, route information and sensitive areas locations. The second series of two, four feet by three feet (UV protected) signs are more educational in nature and will present in photographs and a narrative the natural and cultural heritage of the OWMP and their importance for OHV use of the OWMP. Costs include design and production of the signs.
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	4,518.00	1,507.00	6,025.00	An indirect rate of 9 percent is being requested for the grant, with a portion provided by the NALC. Costs include those of the administrative officer (Executive Director of the NALC) who will be responsible for ensuring compliance of the project, reporting to the Board of Directors to the NALC, completing all performance reports and final reports, and providing administrative coordination and oversight for all aspects of the project.
Total Program Expenses		64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00	

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	64,156.00	22,619.00	86,775.00	
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Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Domestic water supply (4 points)
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
☐ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [1]
☒ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [1]
☒ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [3]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Impacts to archaeological resources includes vandalizing petroglyphs and pictographs, and damage to debitage and artifact scatter. OHV-related damage to these sites and resources also includes damage from firearms. The OWMP contains four habitat types: Mojave Yucca/Creosote Scrub, Creosote Scrub, Desert Wash (that includes seasonal waterways), and Boulder/Spring/Wash. Each habitat type is found in Sections 5, 9, and 17. With authorized access roads traversing each of these Sections there is on-going habitat degradation in restoration areas from unauthorized OHV use. Among the species and species-habitat at risk by unauthorized use of these habitat areas are Desert Tortoise, Gila Monster (FSS), Willow Flycatcher (FSS), Panamint Kangaroo Rat (FSS), the Peregrine Falcon (SE/FE), Elf Owl (SE/FE), Golden Eagle (CSC), and LeConte Thrasher (CSC).

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
☐ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
☐ Management decision (1 point)
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)

☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Occurrence, Distribution, and Abundance of Vertebrate Species on the Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Gerald Braden, Karen Carter, Michael Rathburn, and Todd Hoggan, Biological Sciences Division, San Bernardino County Museum, 2008).

Survey of the Flora and Fauna of the Old Woman Mountains Preserve, by James Andre (Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station, 2008);

Ethnobotanical Guide for the Old Woman Mountains Preserve, by James Andre (Sweeney-Granite Mountain Research Station, 2008);

Rock Art of the Turtle Mountain and Old Woman Mountains, Eastern Mojave Desert, California, by Don D. Christensen, Jerry Dickey, and David Lee (Bureau of Land Management, Needles Field Office, 2005).
State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation (Primary Record #36-000337 (May, 2006)

Adaptive Management Plan for the Old Woman Mountains Preserve (Native American Land Conservancy, 2006).

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 4

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
☐ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
☐ Use of native plants and materials
☐ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
☒ Educational signage
☐ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

The project would provide for a site monitor in the OWMP who would monitor and ensure the successful implementation of OHV user-rules and regulations in the OWMP in restoration and culturally-sensitive areas in Sections 5, 9, and 17, as provided in the Adaptive Management Plan. The monitor would also be available to inform the user-public about the historical and environmental importance of the OWMP to enlist their understanding of the need for responsible and respectful use of the OWMP. The signage would augment the limited number of signs now in the OWMP. The additional signs will be placed in strategic locations throughout the OWMP frequented by the OHV community and will designate use-areas and routes, terms and conditions of use, and educational information about the cultural and natural heritage resources in the OWMP.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ No (No points) ☐ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
☒ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

In October of 2009 the NALC, in cooperation with the Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hosted the two-day conference, Desertlands/Sacred Lands. The event included the participation of federal and state agencies, tribal governments, conservation organizations, the OHV community, and the general public. A portion of the program was devoted to discussing the new monitoring and signage initiatives for the OWMP, and enlisting the interest and support of the OHV community in participation in monitoring activities. In addition, a meeting with the Torres-Martinez Tribe, the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, the Cahuilla Tribe, the Ocotillo Wells OHV Superintendent, and Anza-Borrego State Parks was conducted by the NALC on March 27, 2010, to review and discuss the preliminary proposal.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☒ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The NALC now provides OHV visitors with informational material, signage, and an on-site monitor. The underlying problem is the OHV visitors are not abiding by the rules and regulations when visiting the OWMP and are impacting sensitive habitat and restoration areas. The monitoring project, to include maintaining the site monitor, providing additional signage in high-use areas adjacent to restoration areas, distributing more detailed information about the OWMP (including maps), and, just as importantly, securing meaningful feedback from the OHV visitors, is now needed to encourage them to follow the rules and regulations and ensure the natural restoration of sensitive habitat in the OWMP.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)

☐ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)

☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)

☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)